

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PM/NPO:LVNOSENZO/DS

APPROVED BY PM/NPO:LVNOSENZO

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R 022307Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050962

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM, TECH, KS

SUBJECT: FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR KOREA

1. CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR NUTTING CALLED DEPARTMENT (NOSENZO/PM) TO SAY THAT FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE (DE NAZELLE) HAD CONTACTED CANADIAN MISSION IN VIENNA IN MARGINS OF RECENT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING CONCERNING FUEL FABRICATION FOR SOUTH KOREA.

2. CANADIANS REPORTED THAT DE NAZELLE SAID MANY IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT WERE DISTURBED BY CANADIAN SALE OF REACTOR ON HEELS OF KOREAN DECISION TO CANCEL FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT. IN PARTICULAR, BURDEN OF INHIBITING PROLIFERATION SHOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF ONE COUNTRY'S SALES; OTHER PARTS OF CYCLE ARE ALSO IMPORTANT TO CONTROL

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PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO CANDU CYCLE.

3. DE NAZELLE THEN WENT ON TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF SUPPLY OF FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY TO KOREA. HE SAID FRENCH WERE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THIS MATTER. HE THEN PASSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO CANADIANS AND SAID THAT FRENCH POLICY ON THIS MATTER AND FRENCH DECISION TO PERMIT CERTAIN PROJECTS BETWEEN FRANCE AND KOREA TO PROCEED WOULD DEPEND ON CANADIAN ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

--IS CANADA READY TO LET SOUTH KOREA FABRICATE FUEL FOR CANDUS AND THE NRX (A RESEARCH REACTOR)?

--IS CANADA IN A POSITION WITHIN ITS ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOUTH KOREA TO CONTROL WHAT FUEL IS USED IN ITS REACTORS?

--WOULD CANADA GIVE FRANCE ASSURANCES NOT TO SELL KOREA A FUEL FABRICATION PLANT FOR THESE REACTORS IF FRANCE AGREES NOT TO SELL?

4. NUTTING SAID THAT THE CANADIANS HAD RECENTLY RESPONDED TO FRENCH AS FOLLOWS:

--RE THE NRX, CANADA HAS NOT SUPPLIED AND HAS NO PLANS TO SUPPLY THIS TYPE REACTOR TO KOREA.

--FUEL FABRICATION IS NOT TOUCHED ON IN NUCLEAR GUARANTEES. IF KOREA SHOULD REQUEST CAPABILITY FOR CANDU FUEL FABRICATION, CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ASSUMES FRENCH WILL CONSULT WITH CANADA AS CANADA WOULD ALSO DO.

--LAST QUESTION IS HYPOTHETICAL AT THIS POINT BUT COULD OF COURSE BE DISCUSSED BILATERALLY WHEN AND IF REQUEST FOR FUEL FABRICATION CAPABILITY IS MADE.

5. NUTTING ASKED IF FRANCE HAD CONTACTED US ON FUEL FABRICATION SUBJECT. NOSENZO SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY APPROACH. IN ANY CASE, SITUATION WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY INFORMED FRENCH AS WELL

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AS KOREANS THAT US HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH FRENCH TRANSFER TO KOREA OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LWR FUEL FABRICATION. ALSO WE HAVE TOLD FRENCH THAT IN CONNECTION WITH US DEMARCHE ON REPROCESSING, WE HAVE TOLD KOREANS THAT US IS PREPARED TO ASSIST KOREA IN NON-SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY AREAS SUCH AS FUEL FABRICATION AS A SUPPLEMENT TO BUT NOT AS A REPLACEMENT FOR ONGOING ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER SUPPLIERS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALES, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE050962  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LVNOSENZO/DS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760080-0222  
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**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 MAR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR KOREA  
**TAGS:** PARM, TECH, KS, CA, FR, US  
**To:** SEOUL  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006